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INDIA PERFORMS REMARKABLY WELL IN POVERTY REDUCTION, SAYS UNDP

A total of 415 mn Indians moved out of poverty between 2005 and 2021, the United Nations Development Programme said on Tuesday

25 COUNTRIES HALVE POVERTY INDEX

The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative said 25 countries, including India, halved their global MPI values within 15 years, showing that rapid progress is attainable. These include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam

NUMBER OF POOR DOWN 65% IN 15 YEARS

- In 2005/2006, about 645 mn people were in multidimensional poverty in India. This declined to 370 mn in 2015/2016 and 230 mn in 2019/2021
- People who are multidimensionally poor and deprived under nutrition indicators declined from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021
- According to the UNDP report, child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%

142.86 cr

INDIA SURPASSED CHINA TO BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS NATION IN APRIL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Blow to govt as SC quashes ED chief extension

Gives him time till July 31 to relinquish office

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Tuesday suffered a setback as the Supreme Court ruled as illegal its two service extensions to Enforcement Directorate Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra.

Taking into consideration the Centre's concern regarding the ongoing evaluation of India by the Financial Action Task Force and the possible time it could take to appoint his replacement, a bench of justices B R Gavai, Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol gave Mishra time till July 31 to relinquish office.

The bench, in its 103-page verdict authored by Justice Gavai, recalled that the court in its verdict on September 8, 2021 had specifically issued a directive that Mishra could not be granted further extension which was binding on all parties. Yet, he was granted extensions after amending the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021, the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2021 and the Fundamental (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

The amended laws granted the Centre power to extend the tenure of the CBI chief and the ED Director by a possible three years, one year at a time beyond the mandatory two years. The SC was okay with the amendments.

The court in its mandamus (judicial writ issued as a command) in 2021 had said no further extension shall be granted to Mishra. The mandamus was binding on both the Centre and Mishra. Therefore, the Centre could not have issued orders in breach of the mandamus. "The impugned orders dated November 17, 2021 and November 17, 2022 granting extensions to the tenure of the respondent No 2 Sanjay Kumar Mishra for a period of one year each are held to be illegal," the bench ruled.

Retrospective amendment, it said, should be reasonable and not be violative of fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

"This court has further held that transgression of constitutional limitations and intrusion into the judicial power by the legislature is violative of the principle of separation of powers, the rule of law and of Article 14 of the Constitution of India," the bench added.

S K Mishra

Only in rare cases

In its 2021 verdict, the Supreme Court bench had said the extension of service of officers after superannuation should be done only in rare and exceptional cases

• Copter rescues 7 from Spiti • Shops, houses washed away in Kullu dist

Earthmovers on restoration work as a massive landslide damaged buildings at Shamti after heavy monsoon rainfall, in Solan district on Tuesday | PTI

Landslides kill 13 more in U'khand

HARPREET BAJWA AND NARENDRA SETHI @ Chandigarh/Dehradun

LANDSLIDES and flashfloods over the past few days that knocked off infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in a big way, killed 13 more people on Tuesday. The Southwest monsoon and western disturbances coalesced to create a double whammy in North India.

While the toll since the onset of monsoon on June 24 in Himachal is around 80 with 10 others reported missing, 13 more were reported dead in Uttarakhand. Boulders rolling out of the Uttarakhand hills crushed a few vehicles on their way to Uttarkashi from Gangotri. The Met office predicted that the adverse weather will continue in Uttarakhand till at least Thursday.

Flashfloods damaged vital bridges and quite a few multi-storey buildings on the banks of rivers collapsed or were or got washed away.

In Himachal, as many as 40 shops and 30 residential houses were washed away at Sainj in Kullu district. A local said one village known as Bekar at Sainj was completely washed away in the flood. It had 15 houses besides 200 bigha agricultural land.

In the evening, a helicopter sortie rescued seven persons from the Spiti Valley. "Seven of them have been rescued in the first helicopter sortie. The rest will be evacuated tomorrow," informed officiating DGP of Himachal Pradesh Satwant Atwal. As many as 300 people, including 250 tourists, are stranded there. Most of them are from Maharashtra, MP and Gujarat.

Later in the day, traffic on the Chandigarh-Shimla National Highway was partially restored through a single lane.

Ex-colleague hacks to death MD, CEO of internet firm in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE managing director and the chief executive officer of an internet service provider company were allegedly murdered by their former colleague and two others in the city on Tuesday.

They were attacked around 3.50 pm at the company's office on 6th Cross Road, Pampa Extension, Amruthahalli. The victims have been identified as Phanindra Subramanyam, MD of Aironics Media Private Limited, and Vinu Kumar, CEO.

Subramanyam, Kumar and the main accused, identified as Felix alias Joker Felix, were earlier working together with a broadband and ISP providers company on Bannerghatta Road. Subramanyam and Kumar quit the company and started Aironics in November last.

Phanindra Subramanyam

It is said that the decision of Subramanyam and Kumar launching Aironics did not go well with Felix. Felix was under the impression that Subramanyam was troubling his company's business. After hatching a plan, he went to Aironics office along with two others and allegedly hacked Subramanyam and Kumar to death with lethal weapons. Subramanyam and Kumar were working in their offices on different floors.

There were 10 employees at the office when the MD and CEO were attacked. After the accused fled, the employees rushed the victims to a nearby private hospital, where they succumbed to injuries.

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TMC LEADS IN BENGAL PANCHAYAT POLLS

The ruling party looked set to sweep the violence-scarred rural elections, winning 28,985 gram panchayat seats | P10

EXPRESS READ

Govt to take a call on milk price hike soon

Bengaluru: Minister for Animal Husbandry K Venkatesh on Tuesday said there is a proposal before the government to hike the prices of milk, for which a decision will soon be taken. P4

SC day-to-day hearing on Art 370 from Aug 2

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will commence day-to-day hearing from August 2 on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution. P10

ROCKY TOUCHDOWN

A Beechcraft 390 Premier lands with its nose gear up at HAL Airport in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The aircraft developed a snag in its landing gear. Both pilots are safe and there was no damage to the runway

Tata Group to acquire Wistron's K'taka plant

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TATA Group will become the first Indian company to assemble iPhones in India as it is set to acquire Taiwan-based Wistron Corp, one of the contract manufacturers of Apple in the country.

According to sources, the agreement could be sealed as early as August.

"This news about Tata companies getting one step closer to manufacturing the iconic iPhone for global markets is very positive development and it will help grow the Indian electronic manufacturing and supply chain/component ecosystem. The government welcomes this move," Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar tweeted.

Wistron's factory in Karnataka manufactures iPhones, including the latest iPhone 14,

and employs over 10,000 workers. Valued at $600 million, the company, it is believed, will initially continue to provide technical support to Tata Group. Also, Tata Group will retain some personnel.

Wistron entered the Indian market in 2008 with a repair facility. In 2017, it started manufacturing iPhones for Apple.

The US-based tech giant, Apple, has increased its production in India. According to sources, Wistron has promised Apple to ship $1.8 billion worth of iPhones by March 2024 and triple its workforce at its Kolam factory by next year. Now, Tata Group will have to fulfil these commitments.

GST meet: 28% tax for online gaming

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE GST Council on Tuesday decided to tax online gaming at 28% on full face value with no distinction between games of skill and chance. Casinos and horse racing will also be taxed at 28%. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the decision is not to hurt the industry or states. "There is a moral question. Can we encourage them more than essential goods like food items? The GST Council discussed and understood the matter. It took a decision which had been pending for 2-3 years. The issue is very complex," she stated.

The government will have to make suitable amendments to include online gaming and horse racing in Schedule III as taxable actionable claims. While the Centre's decision will ensure multi-fold increase in its revenue kitty, it will be catastrophic for the industry.

"A tax burden where taxes exceed revenues will not only make the online gaming industry unviable but also boost black-market operators," said Malay Kumar Shukla, Secretary, E-Gaming Federation.

"The announcements must have only prospective effect and any retrospective amendment will be subject to judicial review," said Abhishek A Rastogi, who is arguing several petitions for online gaming companies and casinos.

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